

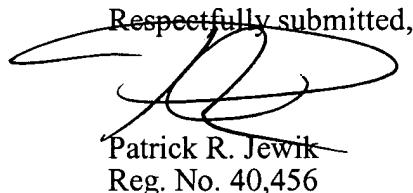
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In this Preliminary Amendment, claims 24-28 are canceled, and claims 1-23 are pending and are subject to examination. This Preliminary Amendment adds continuity data to the first paragraph of the application. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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